



LAGNIAPPE

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.. April 2008

NASA celebrates 50 ...



as the Stennis mission continues!



1963



1967



1995



2006



2008

From the desk of
Patrick Scheuermann
 Associate Director,
 Stennis Space Center



I had the privilege to experience the excitement of the STS-123 night launch along with the Stennis Space Center Space Flight Awareness honorees. What a magnificent and awesome sight to behold as shuttle Endeavor cleared the pad and lit up the entire Florida coastline! This is the culmination of why we all put in so many long hours and days. There were not many dry eyes in the crowd as the shuttle cleared the tower.

I was also able to meet members of the KSC launch processing team. I must admit that I was somewhat of a “kid in the candy store” as I went through the Orbiter Processing Facility and was briefed on shuttle Atlantis’ upcoming rendezvous with the Hubble Telescope. The engine assembly and test work we accomplish at Stennis enables our counterparts to receive and install them on the back of the orbiters in the OPF. I know we took great care and nurtured engine numbers 2047, 2044 and 2054 before delivering them to KSC to help power shuttle Endeavor to the Space Station. I assure you, in their possession, the OPF, Engine Assembly and VAB

workforce took great care of them for the STS-123 crew. When they came to life on the pad, they took people off the planet! The entire Stennis team has a phenomenal responsibility.

Also, I had the chance to tour the Columbia orbiter debris room in the VAB. I know many of you had the same, somber opportunity to tour a few years ago. As a vivid and living reminder of this tragic loss, we should all be clear of our serious responsibility on and off the test stands. Our attention to detail, wherever you work, ensures safe and successful delivery of hardware and people. With our Constellation assignment, Stennis will prominently be on the flight line for many decades to come. We must remain ever vigilant in our tasks.

We have an awesome responsibility to safely fly out the space shuttle. Many of you are already engaged in the start up of the Constellation Program, the J-2X engine program and the A-3 test stand. Others are planning for the Constellation wave of work that will soon consume the B-1 and B-2 test stand, with ARES V stage testing. With five RS-68 engines, a few buildings around the test complex will shake just a tad. We must realize no one leaves earth without the workforce at Stennis, but remember, we are part of a greater effort and workforce that has only taken the first steps in space flight and discovery. Keep up the great work. Your products are very high profile.

Stennis hosts U.S. senators



Senior Mississippi Sen. Thad Cochran (R) (center) visited Stennis Space Center on March 25, touring various facilities and receiving updates on ongoing work at the site. Stennis Director Bob Cabana (left) hosted Cochran during the visit, which included a tour of the Pratt & Whitney Rocketdyne engine processing facility with Strategic Planning Manager Jim Wahl (right).



Mississippi Sen. Roger Wicker (R) (right) visited with Stennis Space Center Director Bob Cabana on March 27 and toured various sites at the facility. A former U.S. representative for Mississippi's 1st District, Wicker was appointed by Gov. Haley Barbour in December to fill the seat of retiring Sen. Trent Lott.

FULFILLING NASA'S EXPLORATION MISSION

J-2X power pack testing on course



Smoke and flames bear evidence of the success of an April test of the J-2X power pack 1A at the A-1 Test Stand at Stennis Space Center. Engineers began a round of nine tests on the power pack in December and expect to complete the series by the end of April. The tests are providing critical information for Pratt & Whitney Rocketdyne engineers as they develop the new J-2X engine. That engine will be used to help power the Ares I and Ares V rockets being developed to carry humans back to the moon, with eventual journeys to Mars.

Testing of the J-2X power pack 1A is expected to continue until the end of April at NASA's John C. Stennis Space Center, at which time engineers figure to have gathered all necessary data, according to NASA's Gary Benton, J-2X engine test project manager.

Seven tests had been completed by mid-April, with three more scheduled, Benton said. "So far, we have met all

planned objectives and haven't had to perform any additional tests to get the required component data."

The testing by Stennis engineers is key to development of the J-2X engine that will help power the Ares I and Ares V rockets that will return humans to the moon, with eventual journeys to Mars. The Stennis tests are providing valuable data for Pratt

& Whitney Rocketdyne engineers as they upgrade pump and gas generator components of the engine.

Once this round of testing is complete, Stennis workers will begin maintenance and modification work on the A-1 Test Stand, preparing it for the next round of tests. Those are scheduled to begin on an upgraded power pack in early 2010.

Stennis continues shuttle engine testing

Space shuttle main engine testing at Stennis Space Center is "progressing well" this year, said NASA's Don Beckmeyer, project manager for that program.

The space shuttles are scheduled to be retired by 2010. However, engine testing for the final shuttle flights continues at Stennis. Engineers have another 10 tests to perform before September 31, Beckmeyer said. In fiscal year 2009, 15 tests are scheduled to be completed by July 2009.

Once those tests are completed, the A-2 Test Stand will be made available for testing of the new J-2X engine. However, the space shuttle main engine testing program will remain on standby in fiscal year 2010, prepared to resume operation if needed, Beckmeyer said. "I fully anticipate our existing workforce will be required and will be available for this return contingency," he added.



Eight minutes and 40 seconds of noise and smoke has been a common scene at Stennis Space Center during the past three decades of space shuttle main engine testing. The main engines for every space shuttle mission have been fired by Stennis workers for 520 seconds – the amount of time needed for the powerful engines to carry the space shuttle and its crew into orbit.

STS-122 crew visit

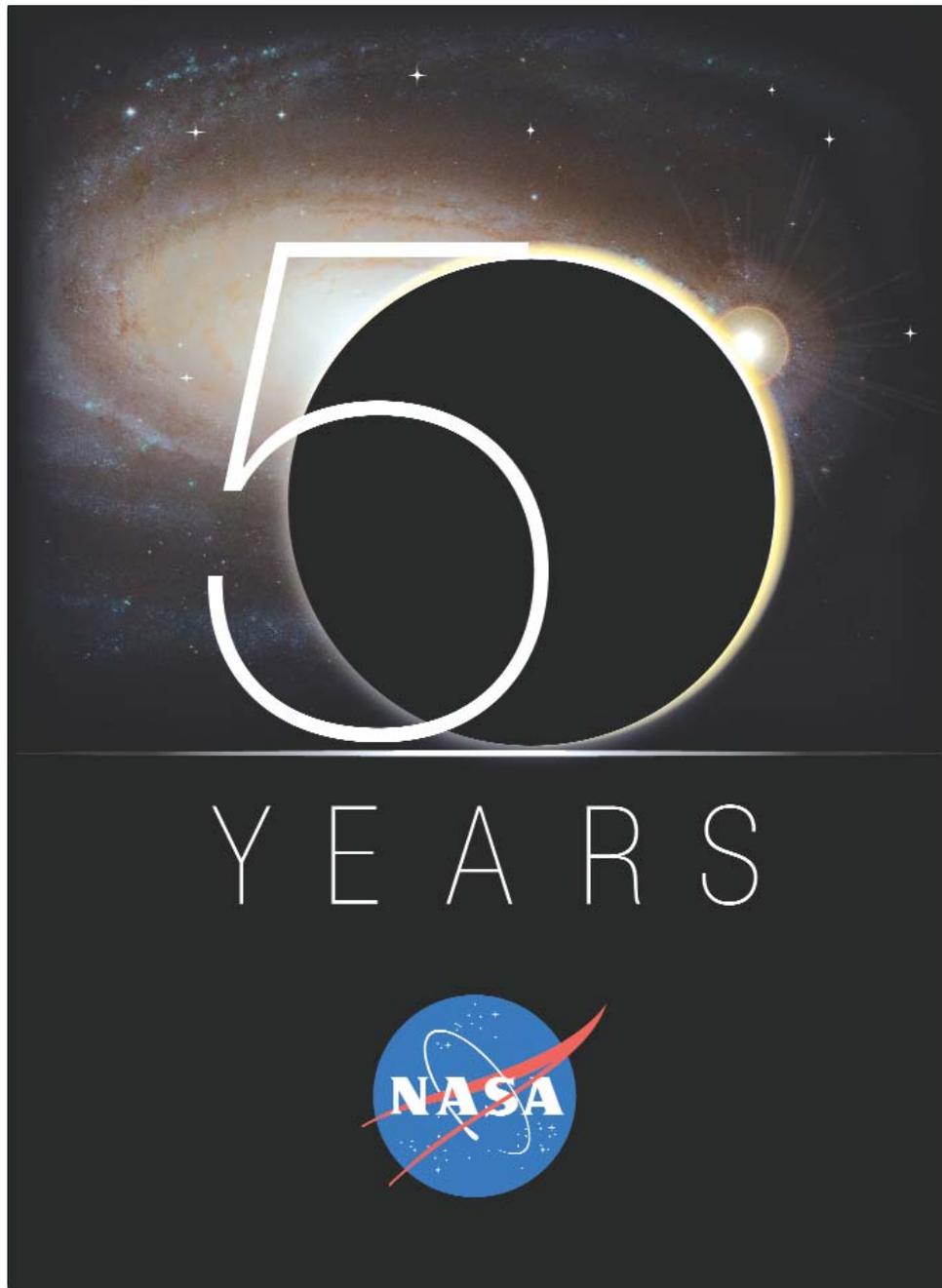
Members of the space shuttle Atlantis crew on mission STS-122 visited the John C. Stennis Space Center on April 8 to thank facility workers for the “great engines” provided for their trip into space. (Top photo, l-r) Mission Specialists Stanley Love, Rex Walheim and Leland Melvin, Pilot Alan Poindexter and Mission Commander Steve Frick answer audience questions in the StenniSphere Auditorium. (Bottom left photo) Melvin talks with visiting kids from the Boys & Girls Club of Gulfport and the Brighton School of Baton Rouge. (Bottom right photo) Stennis Space Center Director Bob Cabana presents a commemorative photo of a rocket engine test firing to STS-122 crew members.



STS-123 completes mission



The space shuttle Endeavour touched down at Kennedy Space Center at 7:39 p.m. on March 26, ending a busy 16-day mission that featured a record five spacewalks. The STS-123 mission ended as it began – in darkness. Both the launch and landing were flawless nighttime events. However, the shuttle was forced to orbit the Earth an extra time before landing to allow cloud cover to lift at Kennedy Space Center in Florida. Altogether, the shuttle and its crew completed 250 orbits of the Earth during their mission. The Endeavour crew delivered the Canadian robotic system, known as Dextre and the first section of the Japanese Kibo laboratory. The next space shuttle mission – STS-124 – is targeted for May 31.



For the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, 2008 is a year to celebrate. Early in 1958, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed legislation to create NASA. The federal agency officially opened its doors on Oct. 1, 1958 – and the future of American space exploration began.

For 50 years, NASA has led the nation in realizing its space dreams – from landing humans on the moon to building a reusable space vehicle to exploring the very farthest reaches of the solar system. Receiving less than 1 percent of the federal budget each year, no agency has done more with less. And no agency has remained more true to its mission “to explore the universe and search for life (and) to inspire the next generation of explorers.”

It is a mission more exciting than ever. Each day seems to bring unimaginable news from the world of space – and that is because each day, NASA is at work, just as it has been for the last 50 years. Even as 50 years of achievement and advancement are celebrated, NASA is focused on the future – a return to the moon, with eventual journeys to Mars.

Stennis Space Center is playing a key role in that future, as it has in past NASA endeavors. The following pages help to document the Stennis role and the Stennis family’s celebration of 50 years of NASA achievement.

On the cover: Stennis employees wearing commemorative T-shirts form a huge “50” on the lawn to mark the anniversary of NASA.

American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics designates Stennis as historic aerospace site

The American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics designated NASA's John C. Stennis Space Center as an historical aerospace site during an April 10 ceremony on site.

The designation makes Stennis the fourth NASA site to be granted such an honor and places the South Mississippi facility in elite company with such aerospace historical sites as Kitty Hawk, N.C. and Tranquility Base on the moon, where Apollo astronauts first landed in 1969. The honor also comes as NASA celebrates its 50th anniversary. Stennis has played a significant role in those years, testing engines for both the Apollo and Space Shuttle Programs. They also will test engines for the new Constellation Program.

"Our test stands are monuments to our accomplishments of the past, but



(L-r) AIAA representative David Throckmorton presents a plaque designating NASA's John C. Stennis Space Center as an historical aerospace site during an April 10 ceremony. Joining Throckmorton for the presentation were AIAA Greater New Orleans Chapter Chair Mark Hughes, Stennis Space Center Director Bob Cabana and Pratt & Whitney Rocketdyne Vice President John Plowden.

they are also the launch pads for the dreams of what we can accomplish in the future," Stennis Space Center Director Bob Cabana said April 10.

"It's very appropriate that they receive the recognition they are due. (And) The historic test stands at Stennis will continue to pave the way to space."

Longtime NASA SSC employees honored



John C. Stennis Space Center employees with 30 or more years of NASA service were honored during recent activities to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the space agency. The employees recognized during a Stennis Space Center anniversary picnic on April 10 included: NASA employees David Brannon, Susan Dupuis and Eddie Gobert; Applied Geo Technologies, Inc. employees Ronnie Bilbo, Samuel Brown, Harold Ross and Wanda Williams; Computer Sciences Corporation employees Rex Cooksey, Fredelyn Crowder, Hector Garcia, William Hedgepeth, Hillman Holley, Denise Jarrell, Chris Mitros, Duane

O'Neal, James Smoot; James Voss, Mary Washington, Rob Williams and Larry Wilson; Jacobs Technology FOSC employees Marla Carpenter, Donald Dunn, Willie Ellis, Kenneth Fortenberry, Nina Freeman, Michael Gaudin, Graham Golden, Jackie Hinton, Timothy Jarrell, Betty Kellar, Debra Ladner, James Lafferty, Larry LaFontaine, Cynthia Maurigi, Douglass Mayberry, Daryl Miller, Donald Parker, Jay Sones, Jeanette Stogner, Willa Stubbs, Edith Thomas and Sheila Ware; Jacobs Technology NTOG employees Roy Ard, Gloria Jordan, Jody Knight, James Landrum, Daniel Lewis Jr., Eugene Ira Necaize, Jesse

Ortner and Michael Slade; Paragon Systems, Inc. employees Martha Bounds, Wayne Crawford and Gerald Martin; Pratt & Whitney Rocketdyne employees Ray Alfred, William Bivens, Clifton Cox III, James Dearman Jr., Kenny Dubuisson, Francis Duleba, Glenn Faciane, James Foil, Rosalind Langford, Joyce Lawrence, Diance Luxich, Thomas McMillan, Annette Moran, Alvin Pittman Sr., James Shows, Estelle Torregano, Donnie Walters and Thomas Wood; and NASA Shared Services/Computer Sciences Corporation employees Gail Barnes, Steve Collins, Cindy Epperson and Earl Johnson.

Stennis employees celebrate NASA's 50th anniversary

Stennis Space Center employees enjoyed an April 10 picnic sponsored by the NASA Exchange to celebrate the 50th anniversary of NASA. The event featured an outdoor barbecue and a live band.

(Top photo, left side, front to back) Carla Guttry of Computer Sciences Corporation enjoys picnic company with NASA employees Charlene Guin, Mary Kennedy, Christy Ladner, Tammy Vaughn, Pat Fairley, Monica Watts, Kelly Sullivan (right side, front to back), Rachael Broussard, Crystal Balentine, Michele Campbell and Trina Street.



(Middle photo, l-r) Main Engine Cut Off band members Gary Benton of NASA, Bill Graham of NASA, Mark Glorioso of NASA, Allen Forsman of Pratt & Whitney Rocketdyne, Stan Gill of NASA and Tony Dileo of Jacobs Technology, Inc. entertain during the picnic. John Byrnes of Jacobs Technology, Inc. also played in the band.



(Bottom left photo) Stennis employees enjoy the selection of hot-off-the-grill picnic fare.

(Bottom right photo, l-r) Aaron Lunt of EMCO Technologies/Lockheed Martin/ODIN, Susan Dupuis of NASA and Carol Burnside of NASA enjoy good food and company during the picnic.



Stennis Space Center's ro

The site known today as NASA's John C. Stennis Space Center has a rich history in space exploration. First called simply Mississippi Test Operations, the site was established to test the engines for America's first journeys to the moon aboard the Apollo Program's spacecraft. The facility was renamed in 1988 for Mississippi's Sen. John C. Stennis, who championed its construction in his home state. Now the nation's largest rocket engine testing facility, Stennis Space Center tests all the main engines for the space shuttle and will test the engines for NASA's Constellation Program, the nation's plan to return humans to the moon, with eventual travels to Mars.

When President John F. Kennedy made his historic 1961 announcement that the United States would put humans on the moon by the end of the decade, a place was needed to test the engines that would propel them on their journey.

The Beginning (1963-67)

Hancock County, Miss., provided the five things necessary to test the large rocket engines for the Apollo Program: a site isolated from large population centers, water and road access, public utility availability, nearby supporting communities and a climate conducive for year-round testing. In May 1963, workers felled the first tree, beginning the largest construction project in the state of Mississippi and the second largest in the United States at the time.

In the summer of 1965, there were 6,400 workers on site, employed by 30 prime and 250



April 23, 1966: The first static test firing of the Apollo S-II-T engine at Stennis

subcontractors, all involved in construction of the test stands for the Apollo Program's Saturn V rocket engines. The massive 200-foot-tall steel and concrete structures were built to withstand thrust loads of more than 1 million pounds and temperatures up to 6,000 degrees Fahrenheit, and are still in use today. A 7 1/2-mile canal system connected the test stands to the Pearl River for transporting the large Apollo stages from the Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans, and on to Kennedy Space Center in Florida. In just three years after the start of construction, the Saturn V rocket was test-fired on the A-2 Test Stand, and south Mississippi was blasted into the Space Age.

Apollo (1967-72)

From 1967 until 1972, SSC test-fired all first and second stages of the Saturn V rocket for the Apollo Program. Nearby Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans manu-



1969: Apollo 11 launches



1964: Construction of A-2 Test Stand begins



1964: Workers lay A-2 Test Stand foundation



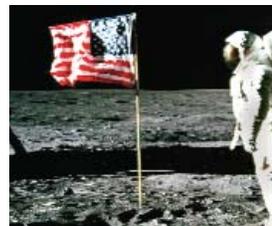
1965: Engine test site begins t



1967: Workers test fire Saturn V booster stage



1969: S-II booster stage undergoes test fire



1969: Humans walk on the m

Role in space exploration



April 2006: Stennis marks 40 years of engine testing

factured Apollo's large rocket stages. Stennis' location on the Pearl River allowed the stages to be barged from Michoud to SSC for testing, then across the Gulf of Mexico to Kennedy Space Center, Fla., where they were prepared for launch.

In spite of a short deadline and construction obstacles, 4,600 workers and major contractor General Electric were able to have the Mississippi facility ready in time for its first test-firing of a rocket engine on April 23, 1966 – a feat called “vital” to the Apollo Program. SSC conducted 42 tests for the Apollo Program. The Apollo Program had three unmanned and 12 manned missions with six actual lunar landings, and 12 astronauts walked on the moon. The first lunar footprints were those of Apollo 11 astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin, on July 20, 1969. They were all safely transported 240,250 miles to the moon by

engines proven flight-worthy at Stennis Space Center.

Apollo Milestones

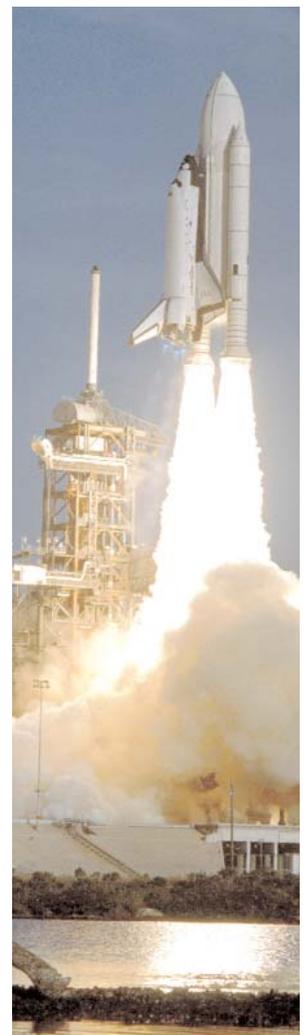
- Oct. 11-12, 1968: Apollo 7, first manned mission
- Dec. 21, 1968: Apollo 8, first to orbit the moon
- July 16-24, 1969: Apollo 11, humans walk on moon
- April 11-17, 1970: Apollo 13, mission aborted after oxygen tank rupture. Crew was rescued, including astronaut Fred Haise from Biloxi, Miss.
- Dec. 11, 1972: Apollo 17, last lunar landing

Space Shuttle (1972 - Present)

After Apollo, NASA announced it would create the world's first reusable spacecraft, the space shuttle. Stennis Space Center converted its test stands to test the new vehicle's main engines. On May 19, 1975, SSC and prime contractor General Electric tested the first space shuttle main engine on the A-1 Test Stand. Today, SSC's nearly 2,000 employees, including those of major contractor Pratt & Whitney Rocketdyne, continue to test every engine used to power the shuttle into orbit.

The space shuttle became the first spacecraft able to carry large satellites into orbit and retrieve them. It can orbit Earth at altitudes as high as 330 miles on missions of seven to 16 days, carrying a crew of up to seven. Scientific experiments are conducted in the gravity-free environment. Studies conducted in the shuttle's weightless environment enable research not possible on Earth.

See **ROLE**, Page 10



1981: First space shuttle launches



to emerge



1965: A-2 Test Stand takes shape



1966: S-1C-5 stage arrives by barge



1966: Workers prepare J-2 engines



moon



1995: SSME gimble



2004: Shuttle engine test after Columbia tragedy



2004: Return to Flight engine ships out

ROLE

Continued from Page 9

On April 24, 1990, the space shuttle transported and launched the Hubble Telescope into space, expanding understanding of the universe. In 1998, the shuttle began transporting the components to build the International Space Station, a permanent, inhabited, scientific laboratory in orbit 250 miles above Earth, with astronauts living on board for an average of three to six months.

SSC conducted extensive testing to return the space shuttle to safe flight after the losses of space shuttles Challenger in 1986 and Columbia in 2003.

Space Shuttle Milestones

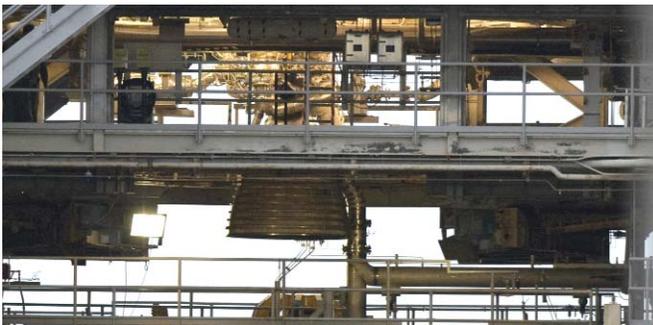
- May 19, 1975: first space shuttle main engine test
- April 12-14, 1981: first space shuttle launch
- Jan. 21, 2004: 1 million seconds of space shuttle main engine testing and launch firings
- Aug. 11, 2005: 30 years of space shuttle main engine testing at SSC
- Sept. 29, 2006: A-1 Test Stand conducts its last space shuttle main engine test before conversion for testing engines for future spacecraft being built

The Future

In January 2004, President George W. Bush announced America's goal to return humans to the moon with eventual journeys to Mars. A new spacecraft would be developed to replace the space shuttle, and Stennis Space Center was chosen to test the engines that will power those next-gen-



2007: Workers install J-2X power pack for testing



2007: J-2X 1A power pack undergoes first test



2008: Artist concept shows Ares I, Ares V designs

eration spacecraft: Ares I crew launch vehicle and Ares V cargo launch vehicle. Pratt & Whitney Rocketdyne's RS-68 engine was chosen to power the Ares V core stage. The RS-68 engine has been tested at Stennis since 1999.

In May 2007, NASA announced construction of a new test stand at SSC to test the J-2X engine's performance at high altitudes. Clearing at the A-3 Test Stand's 19-acre site began in June 2007, and construction is due to be completed in late 2010, with engine test-firings by the end of that year. Stennis Space Center was originally built to test the Saturn V engine that put Americans on the moon, and is now testing the rocket engines that will return Americans to the moon and on to future exploration.

A-3 Test Stand Facts

- 300 feet tall
- Open steel frame structure
- 19-acre site
- Thrust levels up to 1 million pounds
- Able to simulate altitudes up to 100,000 feet by generating steam to create a vacuum



2008: Artist concept shows design for the A-3 Test Stand



NASA Advisory Council visits

NASA Advisory Council members visited Stennis Space Center April 15 and 16, touring facilities and participating in various presentations. They also viewed a space shuttle main engine test on the A-2 Test Stand. The council of accomplished citizens advises NASA on major policy and program issues. The council includes former Apollo 17 astronaut Harrison Hagan Schmitt as chair, as well as former astronaut Eileen Collins, the first woman to command a space shuttle mission. The NASA Advisory Council concluded their meeting with a public session on April 17. In addition to Schmitt and Collins, council members visiting Stennis were James A. Abrahamson, Raymond S. Colladay, Dr. Edward E. David, Jr., Dr. Kenneth Ford, Hon. Donald C. Fraser, Dr. Owen K. Garriott, Robert M. Hanisee, Frederick H. (Rick) Hauck, Bradley L. Jolliff, Dr. Thomas D. Jones, Gerald L. Kulcinski, John M. Logsdon, David E. Longnecker, Lester L. Lyles, Edward R. McPherson, R. James Milgram, Dr. C. Paul Robinson, Mark Robinson, Howard J. Stanislawsk, John Sullivan, Jack Burns, Lucy Fortson and Ioannis Miaoulis.

Constellation/Ares 1X managers meet at SSC



NASA senior managers met at Stennis on April 14 to receive status updates and briefings on the Constellation Program's Ares 1X scheduled launch in 2009.

(Top left photo) Constellation/Ares 1-X team members pose against the backdrop of the A-1 Test Stand during their visit to Stennis.

(Center left photo, l-r) NASA Exploration Systems Chief Engineer Frank Bauer, Stennis Space Center Chief Engineer Bartt Hebert and NASA Exploration Associate Administrator and former Stennis Director Rick Gilbrech view the J-2X test firing during the Constellation/Ares 1-X team meeting.

(Bottom left photo, l-r) NASA managers viewing J-2X power pack test included Kennedy Space Center Director Bill Parsons, Stennis Project Directorate Director Dave Carstens, Stennis Associate Director Patrick Scheuermann, Stennis Space Center Director Bob Cabana and Johnson Space Center Director Michael Coats.

(Top center photo) Constellation/Ares 1X managers view J-2X power pack test.

(Top right photo) Among those at Stennis for meetings and test viewing were NASA Administrator Michael Griffin (right photo, light blue sweater) and Marshall Space Flight Center Director Dave King (to Griffin's left).

Mississippi Development Authority official tours Stennis facilities

Mississippi Development Authority Global Business Project Manager Chris Thomas (right) visited NASA's John C. Stennis Space Center on March 24. Thomas toured ongoing construction at the South Mississippi facility, received an update about the planned Infinity Science Center project and visited various test and development facilities. At the Pratt & Whitney Rocketdyne engine processing facility, Thomas was hosted by Strategic Planning Manager Jim Wahl (left). Mississippi Development Authority is the state's leading economic and community development agency.



NASA Deputy Associate Administrator of Strategic Partnerships

Wayne Hale updated on Stennis test programs



NASA Deputy Associate Administrator of Strategic Partnerships Wayne Hale Jr. (second from left) visited Stennis Space Center on March 18. During the visit, Hale toured site test stands, including the A-3 stand currently under construction. He also viewed a space shuttle main engine test firing at the A-2 Test Stand and was updated about the J-2X testing program underway. Before assuming his current post earlier this year, Hale served as manager of the Space Shuttle Program. He began work with NASA in 1978 in the propulsion systems section of flight operations at Johnson Space Center in Houston. Shown at left are: Gary Benton, J-2X engine test project manager; Hale; Don Beckmeyer, space shuttle main engine test project manager; and Lonnie Dutreix, A-3 altitude test facility project manager.

Stennis hosts JAXA officials



U.S. Senate staffers view test

U.S. Senate aides Scott Walker (left) and Myrtis Franke viewed a space shuttle main engine test firing during a recent visit to Stennis Space Center. Walker serves as the Southern District field representative for Sen. Roger Wicker (R-Miss.). Franke is the Gulf Coast director for Sen. Thad Cochran (R-Miss.). Both Mississippi senators also recently visited Stennis. (See Page Two)



Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency officials Kuniaki Shiraki (front row, from left) and Koji Yanagawa recently visited Stennis Space Center. Shiraki is executive director of the human space systems and utilization mission directorate for the agency. Yanagawa is head of the human space technology and astronauts department. At Stennis, they were hosted by center Director Bob Cabana (back row, far right). On the facility tour, they were joined by Mike Witt, RS-68 senior technical advisor for Pratt & Whitney Rocketdyne (back row, center); and Gary Benton, J-2X engine test project manager.

Stennis employee receives NASA honor

For the second year in a row – and only the second time ever – a John C. Stennis Space Center employee has received NASA’s highest honor for quality and safety.

Thelma Cox, leader of the Defense Contracts Management Agency team overseeing Stennis’ Facility Operations Services Contract, was one of four persons to receive NASA’s Quality and Safety Achievement Recognition (QASAR) Award on Feb. 26 in Daytona Beach, Fla.

“Ms. Cox’s attention to detail and exceptional leadership have enabled (her) team to perform all assigned duties with superior quality even when faced with difficulties and uncertainties,” the recommendation letter for her nomination reads. “Her performance in carrying out the safety and mission success goals are above reproach. She is truly a leader with a goal of being an indispensable partner to NASA.”

The QASAR Award is one of NASA’s most prestigious

honors. It recognizes individual government and contractor employees who have demonstrated exemplary performance in contributing to the quality and safety of products, services, processes or management programs and activities.

“I view this as an extraordinary accomplishment for myself, my team, my agency and Stennis Space Center,” Cox said. “I am truly blessed to be able to work on the space program, which has such a powerful impact for our nation.”



Stennis Space Center employee Thelma Cox displays the QASAR Award plaque she recently received in NASA ceremonies.

Area III Special Olympics at Stennis



On March 29, the John C. Stennis Space Center family hosted participants and guests for the 2008 Area III Special Olympics. (Top left photo) Al Huddleston from Biloxi Community Homes carries in the torch for the opening ceremonies. (Top right photo) Megan Willis from Harrison Central High School shows good form during her soccer kick competition at the 2008 games. (Bottom left photo) Stennis Space Center Director

Bob Cabana welcomes participants, volunteers and spectators to the South Mississippi facility. (Bottom right photo) Former Louisiana State University star and current New Orleans Saints player Skyler Green (left) talks with Nikki Angelo from the Robert Lott Community Homes. Angelo is accompanied by Jullian Kobayakawa of Jacobs Technology, Inc., one of many Stennis employees who served as volunteers.

Stennis team rescues wayward owl

One of two rehabilitated, fledgling Great Horned owls was released into the wilderness March 10 at NASA John C. Stennis Space Center – near the B Test Complex where it was discovered last month.

The owls are believed to be siblings because they were found within 50 feet of each other, said Dave Golden, lead scientist with the Natural Resource Management Team (NRMT). Employees at Stennis alerted NRMT when one of the two abandoned owls was spotted in a work area.

“A couple days later, we got a call for a second bird, and I’m sure they were nest mates,” Golden said. “We picked them up because we have a pretty big coyote population out there ... and found them a temporary home.”

In the five years the resource management team

has been tasked with wildlife recovery, Golden estimates that the organization has probably rescued every type of animal that can be found at Stennis Space Center.

Golden, a licensed rehabilitator, spent two days taking care of one of the owls, before transferring it to the Wildlife Rehabilitation and Nature Preservation Society. While the owl was in Golden’s care, he found it to be so docile that he thought it was a Barred owl. “The Great Horned owl, he’s a tough guy, but this little owl almost nestled in your arms like a puppy,” he said.

Golden said the rehabilitation process is pretty fast



Dave Golden, who serves as lead scientist with the Natural Resource Management Team, prepares to release a rehabilitated owl recently rescued near one of the Stennis Space Center rocket engine test stands.

with owls. The owl recently released seemed healthy and alert. He took flight from his perch on Golden’s arm and made his way into the forest.

“You did a great job of rehabilitating him. He’ll be fine,” Golden said to WRANPS volunteer Marion Langdon.

The release of the Great Horned owl was one example of NASA’s ongoing commitment to preserving wildlife. Michael Blotzer, who serves as environmental officer for Stennis Space Center, said such rehabilitations are a step toward preserving species that were diminished by Hurricane Katrina.

Earth Day Observance

Earth Day (April 22) is a time for everyone to think about what he or she can do every day to protect the planet. Often, simple steps are all it takes.

10 Ways to Go Green

1. Create less garbage. Recycle, buy products with the least amount of packaging, bring cloth bags to the grocery store so there will be no need to throw away paper or plastic sacks and donate used clothes, toys and household items to charity rather than throwing them away.
2. Buy products made from recycled materials.
3. Switch from incandescent light bulbs to compact fluorescent lights.
4. Plug electronic appliances into power strips and unplug power strips when not in use.
5. Buy water-efficient fixtures and products.

6. Take unwanted household chemicals, such as cleaners and solvents, to hazardous waste collection centers.
7. Set lawnmower blades on the highest setting, leaving grass two to three inches long to encourage healthier roots and protect the soil better from the hot sun – meaning less water is necessary to keep the lawn green and growing.
8. Plant trees.
9. Save energy by purchasing energy-efficient appliances and electronics and using a programmable thermostat.
10. Use public transportation, carpool, walk or bike whenever possible to avoid using a car.

(Stennis Space Center’s Earth Day festivities will be held on Tuesday, April 22, 2008, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the atrium of Building 1100. The event is open to NASA employees, resident agencies and contractors. For more information on Earth Day, visit www.epa.gov/earthday/index.htm.)

A reminder to all: Do not judge in haste – some disabilities are ‘invisible’

From the Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity

The last time you went shopping and saw someone get out of a car parked in a space reserved for the disabled -- did it make you uncomfortable or even upset? Did you wonder to yourself, “What’s wrong with them?” Maybe you let them know of your disapproval by giving them a

dirty look or by actually saying something to them. Many people are troubled by the sight of a seemingly healthy person taking the parking space of someone who may truly need it.

However, in wanting to help those who deserve these parking spaces, we actually may be hurting someone who does have a legal right and a legitimate need to park there. How can this be true? Isn’t it obvious who has a disability? The answer is ... NO.

Just last week, a co-worker told me about an incident that happened to her 24-year-old son. He was parking his car in a disabled parking space at the hospital. Before he actually exited the vehicle, a person walking through the parking lot, stopped and began lecturing him about parking in a disabled space. You can imagine the individual’s embarrassment when the young man got out of his car with crutches.

Here are a few “invisible” reasons a person may need to park in a disabled parking space:

Arthritis, Back Injury, Brain Injury, Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, Cystic Fibrosis, Diabetes, Heart Condition, Lupus, Lyme Disease, Muscular Disorders, Multiple Sclerosis, Neurological Disorders, Osteoporosis, Organ Transplant, Oxygen Impairment, Parkinson’s Disease, Spinal Disorders, Surgery and several others.

If you or a family member have any of the above “invisible disabilities,” you already understand that looking healthy is far from actually being healthy.

My sister, who was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis six years ago, would willingly trade in her disabled parking placard for the ability to walk from the farthest end of the parking lot.

To many of us who are healthy and able to walk, we see these spaces as a bonus or even a luxury. But, for individuals who

are sick or in pain, it is just a reminder of what they have lost. These parking spaces do not make their life easy; they make their life possible.

This article is just a reminder to all of us. Just as we were taught not to judge a book by its cover, let’s not make assumptions about an individual’s disability.



Astronaut Janice Voss (pictured) was guest speaker for the Women’s History Month program sponsored by the Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity on March 26 at Stennis Space Center. Voss has flown five space shuttle missions. She serves as lead of the Astronaut Office Payloads Branch.

This Month in NASA History

On April 12, 1981, 20 years to the day after the first human went into space, NASA launched its very first space shuttle mission. Astronauts John Young and Robert Crippen guided the space shuttle Columbia on a successful 55-hour mission that marked an American return to space after a six-year absence. The mission introduced the shuttle as the first-ever reusable spacecraft, one that launched like a rocket but landed like a plane. It also marked the first use of solid-fuel rockets for a U.S. manned launch. The mission went perfectly, with Young and Crippen accomplishing more than 130 flight objectives.



Hail & Farewell

NASA bids farewell to the following:

Terence Bordelon Telecommunications Center Operations Directorate

And welcomes the following:

Amy Grose Chief Counsel
Office of the Chief Counsel

Bonnie Humphrey Personnel Security Specialist
Center Operations Directorate

Jacqueline Wall Management & Program Analyst
Office of the Chief Financial Officer

Bayou Regional hosts robot teams

Forty-six teams from 10 states recently competed for top honors during the 2008 FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Bayou Regional competition held March 27-29 in New Orleans.

A team from the Conroe (Texas) Independent School District completed a week-end sweep, winning all nine of its qualifying matches. The team partnered with Mountain Home (Ark.) High School and Cody High School in Detroit, Mich., to win first place in the alliance competition.

However, it was a Gulfport, Miss., team that walked away with the most prestigious award during the

competition. The team from Gulfport High School earned the Regional Chairman's Award, which recognizes the team creating the best partnership effort and best exemplifying the true meaning of FIRST.

The FIRST competition is designed to encourage students to pursue engineering and technology careers. Teams are given six weeks to build robots that can perform assigned tasks. They then compete in regional events to earn a chance to go to the finals.

NASA and the John C. Stennis Space Center are strong supporters of FIRST Robotics and the Bayou Regional event through direct monetary



A robot built by students at Slidell (La.) High School releases large rubber ball over a barrier during the Bayou Regional competition in New Orleans.

support and the work of judges, volunteers and team mentors. In total, the overall NASA/John C. Stennis Space Center support of FIRST Robotics and the Bayou Regional

Competition in 2008 totaled \$445,000.

More than half of the 2008 Bayou Regional field hailed from Louisiana (15 teams) and Mississippi (12 teams).

DEVELOP student awarded Congressional medal

Jason Jones, 21, of Lumberton, Miss., a NASA DEVELOP intern at the John C. Stennis Space Center, was awarded the Congressional Award on March 20 in recognition of outstanding achievement and service. Jones received a silver medal during a ceremony at Stennis. Congress established the Congressional Award in 1979 to recognize initiative, achievement and service in young people. To earn his silver medal, Jones conducted public service for the mentally handicapped and a crisis pregnancy center; pursued physical fitness goals; explored an unfamiliar environment or culture; and achieved personal development by engaging in speech and debate activities and earning a pilot's license. Jones is a junior at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg. He is shown at right with Congressional Award Program Adviser Marsha Ellis (left), who presented the medal to Jones, and Linda Mitchell, Congressional Award volunteer and USM staff member.



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